

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants wish to thank Primary Examiner David S. Romeo for the courteous consideration rendered applicants' representative during a telephone conference on June 6, 2006.

The telephone conference, initiated by applicants' undersigned representative, was for the purpose of confirming that the priority claim, under §119(e), to U.S. Provisional Application no. 60/044,187, filed April 24, 1997, was properly made of record and, so, would appear on the face of the printed patent. Examiner Romeo indicated that the §119(e) priority claim had been entered into the record. Nevertheless, to ensure that the priority claim appeared on the face of the printed patent, the Examiner kindly agreed to enter additional papers into the record.

Also, as kindly suggested by the Examiner, the priority claim is added, hereby, to the text of the subject application.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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